

nexus INK



Winter 2024

 nexus inc.

CEO Welcome

Welcome to the Winter edition of Nexus Ink!

Winter brought with it a flurry of activity both inside and outside of Nexus.

Even as the weather cooled, some clients continued to head out for adventures at parks and even Bruny Island, whilst others honed their cooking skills at home or enjoyed a treat at a cafe. We celebrated a marriage and a birthday with clients this season and reinforced the importance of taking joy in these milestones.

Outside of Nexus the roll out of NDIS reforms continues to be slow. Many clients and families in our community are worried about how the changes might impact their support.

Thank you to everyone who talked to us about their concerns on issues including changes to funding and the role of support coordinators. We continue to work and campaign with our industry bodies and other providers to ensure our clients and staff receive the support they need. I am very pleased that the campaign to reverse funding cuts to complex clients was successful.

Nexus still continues to be committed to providing active and engaged supports for our clients, and this month's stories are a great reflection of that.

Brit has been with us for a number of years now and it is fantastic to see her moving out into the world of open employment. It was also great to have her along for the Tasmanian Training Awards where we were honored to receive the Large Employer of the Year Award.

That was just the start of award season and I want to acknowledge two of our other team members, Ben and Cheryl, who were also recognised for their commitment to support work at various awards recently.

Mark Jessop
CEO, Nexus Inc.



Celebrating Client Success: From Nexus Customised Employment Program to Full-Time Employment

At Nexus, we believe that visibility and representation of people with disability in the general workforce is crucial to changing misconceptions about their ability to contribute in the work place.

Recently, not only has Nexus but society as a whole evolved to offer more opportunities to people with disability in the workplace, helping to redefine perceptions of their capabilities and ambitions.

This winter, we were delighted to witness such a success story at Nexus when our former Customised Employment program client, Britney, successfully secured a full-time job as a Cleaner at one of the most prestigious schools in Hobart.

Coming to Nexus during the COVID-19 pandemic with no work experience, Britney learned new skills and built her confidence in providing cleaning services to businesses through Nexus' Customised Employment Program.

Her hard work and dedication to learning new things paid off when she started working as a cleaner for several organisations across Hobart including our social enterprise, Social Enterprise, Employment and Diversity (SEED).

Britney said the Nexus team provided training and employment opportunities she may not have had otherwise.

"Nexus has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone," Britney said.

"Working at Nexus has also helped me get my driver's license, pay for my own car and get me from A to B," she said.

"It's been fantastic working and learning new things at Nexus."

Nexus Customised Employment Manager Jackie Gregory said she was "very proud" of Britney's success.

"If you can't see it, you can't be it. And if you don't see people with disability working in places, as a person with a disability, you wouldn't think you could," Jackie said.

"Britney is a wonderful example of what's possible for people with disability once they get the training and opportunity."

We wish Britney all the best for her future journey.

Nexus Team



A Season of Recognition

This winter, we celebrated our staff's achievements at two separate industry awards.

Nexus Community Services Support worker Ben was named a finalist in the 2024 Tasmanian Training Awards for the Vocational Student of the Year Award, which celebrated his outstanding achievement in a nationally recognised qualification and dedication to his ongoing development as a Support Worker.

Supported Living Team Leader, Cheryl, was nominated for the Support Worker of the Year Award at the 2024 Tasmanian Disability Awards, reflecting her dedication to supporting people living with disability.

Congratulations to Ben and Cheryl!



In this season of awards and recognition, Nexus was honoured to win the prestigious Large Employer of the Year Award at the 2024 Tasmanian Training Awards.

The Tasmanian Training Awards were held in Launceston, and Nexus CEO Mark Jessop and former Customised Employment client Britney accepted the award and represented Nexus on stage.

"The support we provide to our clients is not one-size-fits-all, so our training should not be one size-fits-all", Mark said in his acceptance speech.

"People living with disability have a right to quality support and the only way to ensure this is through proper training.

"Nexus winning this award is a testament to our 600 staff who are positive toward training and drive our Nexus training culture."

Nexus in the Community



Supporting Aspiring Support Workers in the Community

This winter, we were pleased to support the 'NDS Supporting Locals' project in Oatlands organised by the National Disability Service Tasmania.

Being rolled out across rural Tasmania, the program offers a free six-week training course for aspiring Support Workers, including work experience in the disability sector and six months of post-training support.

Nexus Complex Support Manager, Beck, presented to the group about our services and the different types of Support Worker roles available.

It was also great to see the strong engagement from the group and hear their stories about barriers they have faced when applying for Support Worker roles including minimum training requirements.

This was a great opportunity for Beck to highlight pathways into Nexus that do not have strict training requirements for those who are passionate about becoming a Support Worker. Beck said she was looking forward to presenting to another group again soon.

We hope to see these upcoming Support Workers working with Nexus in the near future.



Trivia Nights with North West Staff and Clients

Nexus North West clients and staff have been enjoying their time out in the community, starting a new tradition of trivia nights during the chillier months.

"Trivia night is something that gives our staff and clients a chance to catch up, unwind, and interact with others," Nexus Supported Living Assistant Manager Danieka said.

"We want to continue this tradition in the North West with the possibility of also starting Karaoke nights."

Outgoing Assistant Manager Supported Living Joanne summarised trivia nights as "Great nights, great laughs, great memories and great people."

"Staff and clients are having plenty of giggles on trivia nights, and clients even answer questions we have no idea about!" Joanne said.

Client Stories

Meg

Escaping the cold this winter, Meg, loved her visit to the Sweets & Treats lolly shop in Richmond, where she had chocolate waffles, cream, and a chocolate milkshake, which she said were “delicious.” Meg had a lovely day in the community and eventually braved the cold to feed the local ducks.



Erin

This winter was a particularly special season for our Community Access client, Erin, who got married in Hobart, with Nexus Support Worker Connor present at the ceremony.

Connor was pleasantly surprised when his role in setting up and packing down the event turned into a last-minute wedding invitation!

Congratulations, Erin! Wishing you all the best in this exciting new chapter of your life.

Nathan

Nathan enjoyed a day trip to Bruny Island, and he “couldn’t be happier!”

He loved searching for penguins at The Neck lookout and then a picnic on the beach at Adventure Bay.

Nathan’s favourite part of the trip was the ferry ride, and he was thrilled to be at the very front of the ferry both ways.



Client Stories

Jamal

Our North West client Jamal had a lovely winter outing, which included a walk at Devonport Bluff, browsing op shops in Ulverstone, and enjoying a BBQ lunch at a park.

Support worker Kelly said Jamal loves walking and cooking BBQ lunches on his community access days when the weather is nice.



Mason

Winter was a season of new learning for Mason, who had a great time baking cupcakes for our Respite unit. The young chef cracked the eggs and did all the hard work, and was delighted when the cupcakes turned out well. His support worker Emily said it was a fantastic experience for Mason to learn new cooking skills and the measurements needed for baking.



Tony

Tony was thrilled to celebrate his 67th birthday with his housemates and enjoyed blowing out the candles on his birthday cake.

Tony adores his long golden hair, and was delighted to receive hair products and accessories as birthday presents, along with other gifts.





Bookings now open!

Nexus Children and Youth Respite offers home-away-from-home style respite for people aged 7 - 15 years old with a particular focus on building capacity in a fun and safe environment.



Want to find out more about getting support from Nexus? Speak with our friendly team:

P. 03 6240 5071 | E. nexusinc@nexusinc.org.au | W. www.nexusinc.org.au

40 - 44 Innovation Drive Technopark, Dowsing Point TAS 7010